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SDD **SPORT** PAGE

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DATE IS REVEALED FOR THE **BUS STATION DEMOLITION**

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WILL BE EVACUATED FROM AREA

The date for the demolition of the former Northampton bus station was revealed this week, as a timetable for the evacuation of nearby buildings was published.

Demolition experts said the derelict Greyfriars bus station building would be demolished on Sunday, March 15.

Surrounding properties will all be evacuated from 8am that day, but residents should be allowed back into their homes by mid-afternoon.

The demolition team expects Greyfriars to come down within its own footprint" in less than 10 seconds, with high speed explosives used.

Following several months of preparatory work, the buildings will be demolished in a "controlled initiated collapse".

An exclusion zone will be put in place around the site that will see roads and businesses closed and residents near the building evacuated until the area is cleared up.

DSM Ltd, the contractors in charge, will contact neighbouring residents and businesses in the exclusion zone to explain detailed arrangements for the day.

The company will also be providing a rest centre at the Park Inn hotel, where residents who have been evacuated from their homes can stay until they are allowed to return.

Once the Greyfriars building is demolished, the site will be made ready for development and handed back to Northampton Borough Council later in the year.

The council said it is currently working on plans for the future use of the site.

Councillor David Mackintosh, leader of Northampton Borough Council, said: "A Sunday is less busy than other days but we acknowledge there will be disruption to local residents and businesses.

"We will do everything we can to keep this to a minimum and ensure that the building is brought down safely and quickly.

"Once the demolition is complete it will open up the area for the kind of redevelopment that will help to strengthen the regeneration of the town centre even fur-

Residents and businesses that are in the affected area will be receiving more information in the next few days, along with a questionnaire that they will be asked to complete to allow more detailed plans to be made.

49 We will do everything to ensure building comes down safely



Preparation work has been taking place on the site and a tower and bridge came down last weekend



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M20

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Back row (from left): Chris Miller, Stephen Davis, David Mackintosh, Mark Exley and Beth Stimpson with front, left to right, Ryan Kenworthy, Archie Leevling, Stephen Davies and Zackery Stapleton at the official launch of work; (below) the previous track at Sixfields

Athletics track set for summer finish

A new home for Northampton's main athletics club could be ready by June as work on a new multi-million pound track at Moulton College started yesterday.

Representatives from Northampton Borough Council, the college and the Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club (RNAC) held an official ground breaking ceremony yesterday on land next to the college's Pitsford Centre.

Chairman of the athletics club, Mark Exley, said the start of the construction came as a "big relief" because the 1,000member club had been without a home since the track at

Sixfields was removed for the extension of Northampton Town Football Club's stadium.

Mr Exley said: "We can see the light at the end of the tunnel now.

"As far as the club goes, this facility will allow us to showcase our runners by allowing them to compete at a higher

Mr Exley said the RNAC had managed to retain its membership base since the Sixfields track closed last spring, but he said, with the club currently training at a number of sites in Northampton and Rugby, it had been a challenge.

He said: "I think we are all

looking forward to having a permanent home.

"If, for example, you are a parent with children at the athletics club in different age groups, you are currently having to drop them off in different locations.

Moulton College, which has more than 1,000 full-time students studying sportsbased courses, will maintain the facility, though the construction is being paid for by the borough council.

College principal Stephen Davies, said: "The fact that we will have a facility of this sort will also help attract major sports teams to come and train here.

"It means my students will get access to the those professional teams. Some of our students could be future athletes and Olympic stars them-

The athletics centre will include changing facilities, car parking, and other infrastructure work required to service the facility, and is part of the Moulton College's plans to launch a new "athletics acad-

Leader of Northampton Borough Council, Councillor David Mackintosh (Con, Rectory Farm) said: "With new state-of-the-art facilities, our athletics club will go from strength to strength."





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Tributes for rower

Former High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and three-times Olympic rower, Christopher Davidge, has died aged 85.

IN

TOUCH

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Born and raised in Northampton, Christopher Guy Vere Davidge lived with his wife, Jill, in Little Houghton before he passed away on December 22,2014.

He served the town in many ways, including acting for a decade as the vice president at St Andrew's Hospital, following previous generations of family members, some of who helped found the mental health hospital.

He was also a chairman of governors at Three Shires Hospital, which he co-founded, and chairman of trustees as the University of Northamp-

In 1988, Mr Davidge acted as High Sheriff for Northamptonshire, following in the footsteps of his father, Vere, in 1950.

Best known for his commitment to rowing, he competed for Great Britain during the Olympics in 1952, 1956 and 1960, and won Silver Goblets at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta on three occasions.

In a letter of condolence to Mrs Davidge – one of about 200 so far – Lord Sebastian Coe, chairman of the British Olympic Association, wrote: "I don't need to say what an extraordinary inspiration and role model he was to so many across all sport.

"His wonderful achievements were a credit to him and to the country,

The former Oxford University student competed in the famous Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race three times, including in 1951 when the Oxford boat sank and in 1952 when his crew won by a length in a snowstorm.

Mrs Davidge said her husband was very highly regarded among the rowing community and she has had a personal visit from Sir Steve Redgrave since Mr Davidge's death.

Mrs Davidge said: "Most people who met him would agree he was a very nice per-

"To me, as a husband, he was splendid."

'Great oarsman,' says UK rowing group

British Rowing described Mr Davidge as a "great oarsman and servant of the sport" for more than 60 years.

He became chairman of the Regattas Commission for

world rowing body FISA, vicepresident of the British Olympic Association and Steward of the Henley Regatta.

While president of the Amateur Rowing Association, he was appointed honorary life president.

In 1973, Mr Davidge received a Medal of Honour for outstanding service to the

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in three Olympics



 $Christopher\ Davidge\ competed\ as\ a\ rower\ in\ three\ Olympic\ Games\ and\ was\ a\ former\ High\ Sheriff\ of\ Northamptonshire$

Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director

US

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Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about savin

that obviously helps.
Many tradespeople have
struggled since last year
and I honestly feel that
during the good times a
minority perhaps didn't
focus on customer care
as much as they should
have done. We make sure
we turn up when we say
we will, do the job the
customer requires and
leave their house as clean
as a whistle. I often get
comments back from
customers on how they
really didn't expect that
sort of service which,
in a way, is very sad for
the service industry as a
whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that l get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Athlete takes on Arctic for sister

A Northampton man who is taking part in an Arctic marathon this year says being eaten by a polar bear is the thing he is most scared of... as well as going to the toilet in freezing temperatures.

Jonathan Davies, from Cross Brooks, in Wootton Fields, will spend a week walking in temperatures below minus 30 degrees Celsius during the charity trip from Eagle Plains in Yukon, to the coast by the Arctic Ocean.

By undertaking the challenge, he aims to raise thousands of pounds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and Smith-Magenis Syndrome Foundation UK, a rare learning disability which his younger sister Clare has.

The 33-year-old paramedic said: "We had to sign a waiver about the risk of karibou attacks and being eaten by polar bears."

Mr Davies will flying to Vancouver, in Canada, on March 15, ready to begin the 350-mile trek on March 20.

He said: "I have been training for months and am currently running about 35 hours per week in full kit, including a balaclava.

"But the race itself is walked because it is important to control body temperature.

"About 30 people take part every year, but only 11 people have completed it in the last nine years. But I don't plan on failing.

"You spend most of the time alone, sometimes in white-out blizzards, and there is minimal help around.

"I am excited, but quite



Jonathan Davies, from Wootton Fields, is taking on the 6633 Ultra race in the Arctic to raise money for charity

nervous, mainly about the prospect of going to the toilet in sub-zero temperatures as you cannot expose any part of your body at any point.

"I've had lots of support from my girlfriend, family and friends, including those back in my home town in Northern Ireland."

The 6633 Ultra race claims to be the "toughest, coldest and windiest extreme ultra marathon on the planet" with participants tackling 120 or 350-mile walks into the Arctic Circle and, for the longer race, up to the banks of the Arctic Ocean at Tuktoyaktuk.

Those taking part in the longer race, such as Mr Davies, will take with them an eightday kit on a sled and will stop to camp and eat along the way.

There are two checkpoints before the finish line which guarantee only emergency shelter and hot water.

For more details on the challenge, visit Mr Davies' Facebook page at Jonny Davies Yukon 6633 2015.

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TOUCH

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Organisers Heather Burton and Richard Durham at the Chilly Willy event

Bikers brave wintry weather for charity

DOZENS of bikers got together to brave the wintry conditions for their annual Chilly Willy ride recently.

About 100 riders met at All Seasons Café, in Billing Garden Village for the event which is now a popular occasion on the biking calendar.

The fun event is held to raise money for the Warwick-

shire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance (WNAA).

It is organised and marshalled by Northampton Bikers Club and this year it raised £850.01, which was more than double last year's amount.

Dave Webb, from the cafe, said: "A big thank you to all the Bikers who turned up from near and far.

"It was an incredible sight

to see 100 bikes stretched out in convoy before returning to the café for a well-earned hot drink. The Chilly Willy Ride Out is now firmly on the biking calendar."

Richard Durham handed over a certificate to Paul Nicholls, from Northampton Bikers Club, after receiving a cheque for the money they raised.

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The number of people parking in the town centre during the Christmas period also increased by 10,000. In total, 50,000 cars used the coun $cil's \, multi-storey \, car \, parks, an$ increase of more than 27 per cent on 2013.

Councillor David Mackintosh (Con, Rectory Farm), leader of Northampton Borough Council, said: "This year we worked hard to make the town centre offer even better with regular entertainment and the traditional German

"We also invested in radio and billboard campaigns to



bring in shoppers from across the region to promote our expanded free parking offer.

"And through our Business Incentive Scheme we have brought even more shops and businesses into the town centre, filling 20 previously va-

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Thursday, January 29, 2015

Motors

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Fiesta's macho brother!

Sales of small SUVs - cars that look like rugged little off-roaders, but aren't - are expected to nearly double in the next five years. So every car maker needs one, and fast. Say hello to the Ford EcoSport. Designed in Brazil and built in India, it's really a Fiesta underneath the mildly macho bodywork. That promises a great deal, once you push the engine start button.

Before we get there, let's wander round the the EcoSport, perhaps wondering if it will prove either Eco or Sport and noticing the large radiator grille at the front and spare wheel mounted on the back door. Moving this frees up room for a decent boot, but does mean the door must be side-hinged, so you have to leave lots of room behind at the supermarket car park or you'll never load the shopping.

Now open the driver's door and slide aboard. You'll notice a nicely elevated driving position, one of the reasons people love an SUV. If you've jumped into an EcoSport from a current Fiesta, you'll spot pretty much the same dashboard.

Then you'll notice there's a general lack of feelgood soft

surfaces, replaced by lots of hard plastic that does nothing to make the EcoSport feel even modestly upmarket.

Just as well, then, that the car comes pretty well equipped for the money.

Standard on the lower spec are 16 ins alloys, electric windows all round, trip computer, keyless entry and automatic air conditioning.

The EcoSport feels tough but it never really settles down on a typically pockmarked British road surface. The little 1.0 litre engine is a gem in the Fiesta and does a decent job in the heavier EcoSport too.



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NICE TIMES Genuine Northampton female, 43, 5'3", cuddly build, short brown hair, smoker, like bowling, cinema, meals out and cosy nights in. Seeking a man for a friendship and a loving relationship. Call 0906 403
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JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME Happy,
laid-back Cliftonville female, 44,
5'3", dark hair, enjoys baking,
home life, sport and more,
would now like to meet a tall,
handsome and kind-hearted
man, to enjoy life with. Call
0906 403 0737 and enter box
number 134681

GOT WHAT IT TAKES? Profes GOT WHAT IT TAKES? Professional, honest Rushden woman, 44, 5'2", dark hair, own home, enjoys the simple things, now seeking a trustworthy, helpful man, to share a loving and happy future together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148573 or send a text to 80361.

MAKE A REAL FRIEND Curvy, riende a KEAL PRIEND CUPY, friendly and loving Bedford female, 47, 5'5", hard working, enjoys animals and cosy times, would like to meet a tidy and fun-loving man, for caring and happy times together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171327 or send a text to 80361

to 80361 LOVE AND ROMANCE Youthful, attractive and loving Northamp-ton woman, 50, loves swimming, nights out and staying active, would like to find a sensitive, genuine man, for dining, company and romance. Call genuine man, for dining, company and romance. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box

SIGN OF THE TIMES Flexible enjoys nights out, socialising and more, would like to meet an nonest, laid-back, fun gent, for good times, company and m in the future. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 154857

154857
Loving, positive and kind, 51
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meet a special, fun-loving male,
who enjoys days and walks out
and enjoys life generally. Call
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THERE'S MORE TO TELL Attrac-THERE'S MORE TO TELL Attractive, outgoing Leicester lady, 56, sociable and fun, enjoys the theatre, sport and countryside, looking for a loving and honest man, for company, friendship and maybe more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151613 or send a text to 80361 LOT OF LOVE FOR THE RIGHT

PERSON Loving, honest, sincere, 56 year old Daventry female, short dark hair, green eyes, average build, 5'4", would like to meet a man who is honest and genuine, for a long-term re lationship. Call 0906 403 0737

NO TIME TO LOSE Hard-working, non-smoking, divorced Northampton lady, 57, 5'7'', likes travel, gardening, film, walks and more, simply seeking a caring, genuine, fun man, to share happy times with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box ımber 151470 or send a text

to 80361 PLEASANT DAYS Kind-hearted. quiet, 59 year old lady, animal lover, love a good laugh, staying in, classic music and chess, would like to meet a nice gentleman for companionship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 183880 or send a text to 80361

DANCE PARTNER WANTED Sincere and friendly, 64 year old Market Harborough female, would like to meet a male dance partner, enjoy Ballroom and Rock and Roll, to get to know and share happy times together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 184202 or send a text to 80361

HAPPY TALK Creative endearing, sincere Brackley woman, 64, widow, 5'3", petite, enjoying my newly retired life but would like to meet a loyal man, for friendship and to enjoy what life has to offer with. Call 0906 403

> ROMANCE AND HAPPY TIMES Kind hearted Kettering womar 64, 5'3", enjoys going to the gym, dancing and reading, looking for an honest, decent, romantic male, to settle down together. Call 0906 403 0737

and enter box number 150116 and enter box number 15011. LIFE IS 700 SHORT Happy, friendly Corby lady, 64, non smoker, tall and slim, enjoys walks, animals, cinema, theatre, holidays and home life, would like to meet a similar gentle-man, for friendship and future happiness. Call 9096 (40) 3737 and enter box number 174072 or send a text to 80561.

or send a text to 80361 FRIENDSHIP BRINGS HAPPINESS Kind-hearted woman, 65, Kind-hearted woman, 65, enjoys country walks, football, occasional nights out, simply seeking kind, honest male, of similar age for friendship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 176013 or send a text to 80361.

to 80361 THE RIGHT BALANCE Kind easygoing Northampton woma 67, widowed, enjoys reading, dog walks and the occasional nights out, simply searching for a kind and honest man, for friendship and good company. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156627

SHARE A SIMPLE LIFE Ouiet petite and sincere corpy way. 67, dresses smart and loves to travel, would now like to meet a smart, decent gent, to share nights out, cosy times and lots of loving company. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 173244

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! Sincere, honest and easy-goin 69 year old Northampton lady like theatre, art, holidays, days out and country drives. Would like to meet a genuine gentle man to get to know and shar happy times. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number

A BETTER TOMORROW Young-at-heart, genuine, 69 year old Northampton female, 5'5", slim, no ties, like nice clothes, nights in and out, meals out, theatre and art. Seeks a male for a long-term companionship. Call long-term companionship. Cal 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 182809 or send a text to 80361

UPFRONT AND UPBEAT Kind-Derkon and operal kind-hearted and loving Rugby female, 73,likes all the normal things in life, would like to meet a sincere, considerate male, for company, conversation and a lasting friendship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153687 ımber 153687

DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT Retired, bubbly Northampton lady, 74, keen cyclist, now searching for a fun, active dance partner, for modern ballroom and latin american classes. Any level of dancing is welcome.

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GREAT COMPANIONS Happy and hopeful, 75 year old Welling-borough, slim, 5'3", attractive, lots of interests, would like to meet a local, warm hearted, kind gentleman, to share a happy companionship. Call 0906 403
0737 and enter box number
18.055

THE STORY SO FAR Friendly THE STORY SO FAR Friendly, caring and youthful Rugby lady, 78, 510", enjoys walks, theatre, board games, days out and more, would like to meet a similar, tender gent, to share happy times with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 166417 or send a text to 80361



MADE TO MEET YOU? Honest, fun-loving, 37 year old Rugby male, 5'9", like evenings out, would like to meet a nice lady, for company, friendship and maybe more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 185829

BRIGHTEN MY LIFE Kind and trustworthy Kettering man, 4 5'10", GSOH, likes music, dir DUH, likes music, dining, pubs and socialising, would like to meet a warm, friendly and honest woman, for company and great times. honest woman, for company and great times. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156434 or send a text to 80361

ALL IN GOOD TIME Friendly, stocky Kettering male, 43, 5'7", enjoys pubs, cinema, TV and home life, now searching for a loyal, caring, honest woman, with a sense of humour, for a loving and lasting relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 177445

MISSING THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE Very laid back, North-ampton male, 54, have great sense of humour, like nights ampton mate, 54, have great sense of humour, like nights out on the town, staying in with the right person. Seeking a nice female, for good company and happiness. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 184088 or send a text to 80361

MAKING THE MOST OF IT
Kind-hearted, decent and loving
Rugby man, 54, 5'5", medium
build, enjoy meals out, movies,
friends and family, would like a
date with a talkative female, for
one of times and great company. good times and great company. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 173937 or send a text to 80361

LETS GET OUT THERE Genuine sincere and caring, 55 year ol Lutterworth male, divorced, would like to meet a friendly lady, who has a good sense of humour, for evenings out and to enjoy life together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171786 or send a text

TRY SOMETHING NEW Romantic borough male, 58, N/S, enjoys weekends away, holidays in the sun, music, dancing and gardening, seeking a loving lady, to share the good times. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 171744 or send a text to 80361

START A NEW CHAPTER Roman-Tick, professional and trusting Market Harborough male, 60, own home and car, no ties, non smoker, would like to meet an open and honest woman, for alssting and loving romance. Call 9906 403 0737 and enter box number 156664 number 156664

LOST THAT LOVING FEELING? LOS1 HAI LOVING FEELING: Attractive, slim, solvent Northampton male, 60, enjoys film, music and more, with lots of love to give, simply seeking a caring, loving lady, for friend-ship, love and lasting romance. Call 0906 490 373 and enter box number 148942 or send a text to 80361

WHEN TWO BECOME ONE Ro-WHEN TWO BECOME ONE Romantic, professional handsome Market Harborough male, 60, N/S, own home, car and business, seeks an open and loving female, to share friendship, fun and lasting happiness with. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158935 or send a text to 80361.

to 80361
LET'S MAKE A DATE Happy, talkative and convivial Market Harborough man, 62, would like a date with a lovable, idealistic woman, for fun times and happiness. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 181520 or cand a text to 80361

ARE YOU A MAICH? Genuine, 62 year old Kettering gentleman, like walking, dancing, country-side, photography and bowling. Would like to meet a nice, sociable, local lady, for days out, nights out and company. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box

THE NEXT CHAPTER Warm, re-laxed Daventry male, young 62, 5'6", still working, enjoys life, drives and more, would like to THE PROMISE OF HAPPINESS

enjoys the countryside, garden ing and long drives, would like to meet a tall, slim, attractive lady, for happy times. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box

COULD IT BE YOU? Honest and reliable, 69 year old Northampton male, widower, more smoker, easy get on with, more smoker, easy get on with, and the year of the year of the year of the year of years of the year of the year of years (1990 403 0737 and enter box number 185114 or send a text to 80361

TOP OF THE WORLD Rational, positive and lively Corby man, 70, retired and active, would like to find an open, observant female 60-65, for caring and happy times together. Call nappy times together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 167631

THE LONG RUN Funny, amenable and adventurous Banbury man, and adventurous Banbury man, 76,57", grey hair, slim build and a non smoker, would like to find a considerate, instinctive lady, for love and an honest future together. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 174624

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Closing date: Monday 2 February 2015. Interviews: planned for w/c 9 February 2015

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Applications must be made using the School's application form.

For an application pack please visit www.uppingham.co.uk Closing Date: Friday 13 February 2015 at 12 noon. Interview Date: w/c 9 March 2015. Uppingham School, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9QE



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SPORT

Pakistan legend joins Northants

County sign all-rounder Afridi for T20 Blast competition

CRICKET

Pakistan cricketing legend Shahid Afridi has signed for Northants for the start of the NatWest T20 Blast competi-

The 34-year-old will be available for the first six Nat-West T20 Blast fixtures, join-

ing the squad on May 15. Head coach David Ripley said: "This is a very exciting signing for us.

"Shahid is without doubt the most outstanding spin bowling all-rounder in one day international cricket of the last five years.

"He is a fierce competitor and undoubted match winner with bat and ball."

A highly experiencedTwenty20 all-rounder, Shahid has featured for Pakistan in 77 T20 internationals, taking 81 wickets at an average of 22.4.

Afridi has an average of 23.49 and a strike-rate of 116.29 in ODIs, and has also taken 391 wickets at 33.89 at an economy-rate of 4.62. Ripley added: "Afridi

brings a wealth of experience to the dressing room with over ${\tt 230} Twenty {\tt 20} games as well as$ captaining his country.

Afridi said: "I am looking

forward to playing in the Nat-West T20 Blast.

"I have always enjoyed playing in England, where I have always found the crowds good natured and knowledgeable

"I am very happy to be joining a good Northants squadin the search for Twenty20 suc-

The deal is still subject to clearance from the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Meanwhile, South African pair Richard Levi and Rory Kleinveldt have signed on at Northants for the 2015 season.

Levi returns to the County Ground for a third summer, while Kleinveldt arrives for his first.

Kleinveldt is a former South African international and will bring a wealth of experience to the Northants dressing room.

The pair will be available for the whole summer, and for all competitions.

Levi, who was a key man in the Steelbacks' NatWest T20 win in 2013, returns to Northants following an impressive 2014 season in South Africa.

Northants Cricket head coach David Ripley said: "It will be a great boost to know we will have two international players available to us for the whole season."



Cobblers sign Holmes on free transfer

RICKY Holmes has signed for the Cobblers on a free transfer, penning a twoand-a-half year contract at Sixfields.

The winger has played the first four games of 2015 on loan from Portsmouth. scoring once during that time as Northampton have compiled an unbeaten run.

Holmes has now made his move permanent from Fratton Park, where he was voted player of the year last

FOOTBALL

season, and for whom he played against Town earlier in the season.

The 27-year-old has formed a highly-effective wing partnership with Lawson D'Ath in recent weeks and manager Chris Wilder was delighted to secure the services of the player.

"As soon as he came through the door he's been a breath of fresh air with his

enthusiasm and his energy,"

"Him and Lawson (D'Ath) on the other wing have given us a real positivity and lifted us, as have all of the signings.

"Players find themselves not involved at other clubs and we've given him a good environment to go and play

"It's a good place for him to play, we really like Ricky and he is enjoying his football at the moment so it's a good fit all round."

Holmes was a popular player at Portsmouth and his departure is likely to lead to some discontent on the south coast.

Some Northampton supporters have wondered why the player was not featuring recently for Pompey, who have struggled for form and currently sit 18th in Sky Bet League Two, five points below the Cobblers.

But Wilder said: "There

will be players that leave here that we don't fancy that other managers say 'he hasn't got a clue that Wilder, he shouldn't have let him go'.

"It's part and parcel of the game and all we can ask is that they dowell for us whenthey come through the door.

"All three of the players we've brought in have competed and done justice to themselves and to their team-mates in what has been a good start to the year."

Meanwhile, the Cobblers have also completed the signing of left-back Tom Newey on a deal until the end of the season.

The defender was a free agent after having his contract terminated at Oxford United on Monday and rejoins Town, for whom he made three appearances on loan in November.

Newey will primarily act as cover for first-choice leftback Evan Horwood.



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